

www.dantes.doded.mil

October 2009, Number 393



Worldwide Education Support to the Department of Defense

Program aims to improve math, verbal skills of military

Are you wondering if you need to brush up on math and verbal skills to take the next step in your education and career? Do you plan to take a standardized exam or pursue a certificate or degree?

Thanks to a partnership between DANTES and Peterson's, assessing and improving your academic skills is easier than ever with direct access to Peterson's Online Academic Skills Course (OASC).

What is OASC?

OASC is an interactive, online course designed for individuals who want to build math and verbal skills, pass exams, advance their careers or continue their education.

Effective immediately, members of all seven branches of the military, as well as their family members, can access OASC through DANTES' Web site, the education Web sites of each Service and MilitaryOneSource.

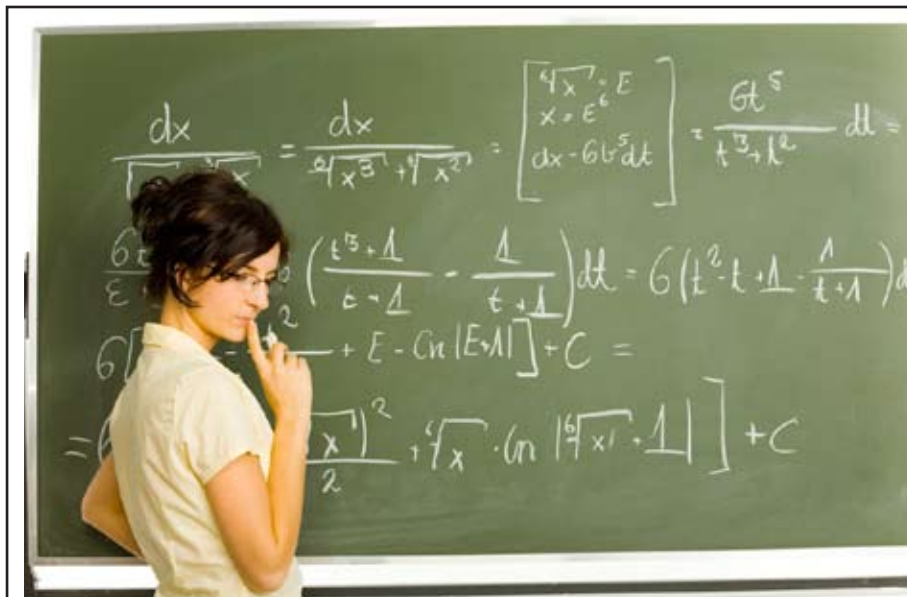
How does OASC work?

When you first log onto OASC, you will be prompted to establish an account and begin an academic skill assessment by taking a Pre-Test. The Pre-Test evaluates current math, reading comprehension and vocabulary abilities.

Based on the results, a customized set of lessons is built to address individual strengths and weaknesses.

Since the interactive lessons within OASC are built specifically for each participant, users will spend most of their time on areas where improvement is needed.

The quizzes and practice questions are targeted to assess users' command of the concepts/skills and how they are progressing through the course.



The program is self-paced and allows participants to progress at their own comfort level. Those with less time to study can choose a shortened set of lessons.

Why does OASC work?

OASC uses award-winning learning object technology to deliver lessons with detailed instruction for a specific concept or skill. Each lesson is approximately 20 minutes long and includes interactive exercises and practice questions accompanied by thorough explanations.

To reinforce learning and

continually assess progress on math and verbal concepts, the course allows users to apply their skills in a test-like setting. Participants receive detailed analysis of their performance – based on the results of quizzes, practice questions and flashcard games for vocabulary and math terms.

At the end of the course, users can take a Post-Test that demonstrates their improvement in math and verbal skills, which is excellent preparation getting to the next step in your education and career.

Reporting tools identify needs, demonstrate progress

To maximize the effectiveness of OASC, Peterson's will create administrator accounts at the Service branch and installation levels to allow administrators to create and view reports for their users.

Administrators will be able to monitor users' performance and progress within the course, making it possible for them to analyze success rates and better understand where additional resources may be needed.



(continued on page 2)

From the Advisor's Desk

The long-lasting effect of WW09 Education Symposium

Every three years, the Department of Defense WorldWide Education Symposium sets the pace for military voluntary education programs for years to come.

This year's event set the tone for an exciting period of changes forthcoming in military voluntary education programs. As Services leverage technology, access to benefits for military personnel becomes easier and more convenient.

As schools find new ways to deliver educational products, Service members discover they have more options and choices.

Terms that were heard frequently at WW09 included jointness,

partnerships and opportunities. These three words are extremely beneficial for Service members in pursuit of a credential. These terms will become of greater importance as we move into the second decade of this new millennium.

I cannot express how inspirational it was for me to be in the presence of the 2,600 people committed to the success of the Armed Forces voluntary education programs. This type of dedication to the future of voluntary education programs will send a resounding message that the success of these programs reflects the success of our Armed Services.

For those of you that I had the

occasion to meet during the event, it was an honor.

I will always consider my participation in WW09 as a highlight in my career. You left an impression of dedication to providing military members with unsurpassed opportunity toward advancing their talents and expanding their horizons.

It was inspiring to be associated with DANTES as it celebrated its 35th birthday. DANTES has been on the crest of jointness, partnerships and opportunities for all of those 35 years. It has evolved into a unique organization that has become synonymous with military voluntary education and credentialing.

Thank you for supporting our troops!



Reporting tools identify needs and demonstrate progress

(continued from front)

In addition, administrators can monitor the time spent in the course and in specific areas at the individual and group levels, as well as observe relative performance on Pre-and Post-Tests. Peterson's will provide training to administrators that covers course content and structure, as well as evaluation techniques for interpreting administrative reports.

Administrators also will be advised on the benefits of having OASC available as a self-study or classroom program.

Self-study allows Service members to remain in the field and continue to be productive in their place of duty, while the classroom option accommodates a larger group within a structured classroom environment.

OASC is available at <http://www.petersons.com/dantes> and <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.



We've got spirit!

DANTES staff members showed their "true colors" by wearing shirts from their favorite schools on College Colors Day last month.

College Colors Day is an annual celebration dedicated to promoting the traditions and spirit that make the college experience great by encouraging people across America to wear apparel of their favorite college or university throughout the day.

The goal is to promote higher education in the United States through increased public awareness and celebration of the achievements of colleges and universities, acknowledging their critical and fundamental importance. The first College Colors Day was celebrated in 2005.



New AEF Test Control Officers train for deployment

Recently, DANTES provided training for the next deployment cycle of Air Force Expeditionary Force (AEF) test control officers. Last month, they left to conduct DANTES-sponsored academic examination programs for forward deployed Airmen. Front row, from left: MSgt Carrie Lynn Riley, TSgt Tracy Wilmer, TSgt Carrie Abernethy, TSgt Kathleen Buss and TSgt Marlon. Back row, from left: TSgt Eric Johnson, TSgt Christy Manning, MSgt Steven Felts, TSgt Michael Jones and MSgt Eric Keys.

Guidance Materials Handbook is a great counseling resource

For the latest information concerning availability and use of guidance assessments provided by DANTES, refer to the DANTES Guidance Materials Handbook at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/distribution/DANTES_Guidance_Materials_Handbook.pdf.

DANTES purchases the following guidance assessments to use with military personnel only:

- ✓ DISCOVER®
- ✓ Career Assessment Inventory™
- ✓ Campbell™ Interest and Skill Survey
- ✓ Holland's Self-Directed Search®

- ✓ Kuder® Journey
- ✓ Myers-Briggs Type Indicator®
- ✓ Strong Interest Inventory®/ Skills Confidence Inventory, College Edition

For the latest professional references to enhance counseling programs, check out the following publications from the American Counseling Association's best-seller list: "Career Counseling: Contexts, Processes, and Techniques, Third Edition" and "Assessment in Counseling: A Guide to the Use of Psychological Assessment Procedures, Fourth Edition".

For more information, go to <http://www.counseling.org>.

Improving college education for vets

The College Educators for Veterans Higher Education is conducting a series of national conferences that focus on improving the college education of veterans.

One such event will be held Oct. 22-24, 2009, at the office of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, 1307 New York Avenue NW, in Washington, DC, in the first floor conference room.

This conference is the result of plans developed by the Academic Veterans Association of the Vietnam Veterans Institute.

THE PROBLEM

Upon returning from war, many veterans are attending college. Unfortunately, some of these veterans are encountering problems that interfere with their efforts to obtain a degree.

Recent examination of this situation indicates that higher education officials are largely unaware of these problems.

CONFERENCE GOALS

This conference was developed to inform professors, college administrators and academic researchers about these problems and about how these problems can be eliminated so veterans have the same college experience as non-veteran students.

In so doing, veterans can be assisted while completing a college degree.

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is \$95 and can be processed online at <http://mediate.com/malley/pg14.cfm>. Onsite registration is \$110 and will be held 10 a.m. to noon on Oct. 22 outside the lecture room. Daily registration is \$60.

Most sessions will last 25 minutes. Posters, pamphlets and books will be exhibited outside the lecture room. For more information, go to <http://www.collegeeducatorsforveterans.com>.

New Web site assists adult learners returning to college

A consortium of colleges and universities has launched a new initiative for adult learners who want information to help them choose an institution offering distance education degrees.

The initiative is called Transparency by Design and includes a Web site at <http://www.collegechoicesforadults.org> that gives adult learners new information to accelerate and improve the decision making process.

The site offers information on program-level learning outcomes, how outcomes are measured and how students performed on these measures.

In the next stage, which is still



in development, adult learners will have access to student satisfaction, progress rate and other data on each member institution participating in the initiative.

"Adults make up nearly 85 percent of all higher education

enrollments today," said Michael Offerman, President Emeritus of Capella University and Chair of Transparency by Design's Executive Committee. "Our goal with the initiative is to enable adults to make informed choices about higher education options by providing them with program-level learning outcomes, measurements and results that are difficult to find elsewhere," said Offerman.

The initiative was born out of The President's Forum – which is a consortium of traditional and non-traditional institutions that share information about creating and maintaining a successful operation in an online environment.

Career Decision Making Self-Efficacy study shows interesting results

As partial fulfillment of his Ph.D. with TUI University, Mike Brennan, Coast Guard Education Services Specialist, recently conducted a dissertation study using active-duty Coast Guard personnel.

The study investigated the effect of career assessments and follow-up counseling on Career Decision Making Self-Efficacy (CDMSE) among Coast Guard personnel.

The study's treatment condition employed three assessments, the MBTI Complete, Newly Revised Strong, and Skills Confidence Inventory – all of which were delivered online.

Six volunteer Coast Guard education services officers (ESO) and specialists, along with Brennan, provided career assessment follow-up counseling sessions over a six-week period via e-mail and telephone.

The treatment group was found to have significantly higher levels of CDMSE at the end of the treatment condition when compared to the control group.

The findings from the study

support online career assessment administration at-a-distance modality as an alternative for military education services specialists, ESOs and guidance counselors for active-duty military personnel throughout the world where Internet and e-mail connectivity is available.

However, administration of career assessments or interest inventories thru other modalities, such as paper-and-pencil or group workshops, remain a viable modality.

The use of individual face-to-face career counseling is the preferred method when possible. Indeed, this should be the first choice for beginning a counselor-client relationship.

However, with the fast-paced nature of military working environments, members are on the go and often find it difficult to visit their unit education center for initial or follow-up counseling.

Additionally, it is common for military personnel to deploy for numerous reasons such as sea duty,

combat, natural disasters, training or miscellaneous contingencies.

Hence, the study's at-a-distance method remains a great alternative.

Among wide ranging assistance such as Veterans Affairs counseling, the Transition Assistance Program also provides outstanding career planning services, including, resume writing, job search, interview techniques, career assessments and feedback interpretation.

Indeed, it is preferred that members are afforded this opportunity early rather than later in their military careers.

Establishment and refinement of lifelong learning goals as dictated by individualized occupational interests prior to transitioning to the civilian sector is preferable where possible.

For more information on obtaining interest inventories or career assessments, visit the DANTES Counseling Support Program link at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

For a copy of Brennan's published dissertation, send an e-mail to michael.d.brennan@uscg.mil.

Learn how to improve the first-time pass rates on exams

Are you trying to test out of college courses? Are you prepared for your final test? How would you know? What are your options? How can you be confident that your individual learning style is being addressed by the test preparation method you are using?

In short, you must know your options. Here is a brief explanation of the most popular methods.

Practice exams

Popular in today's fast paced world, you purchase and take a practice exam. If you do well, you then take the course exam. If you pass, you get credit for the course. But a practice exam IS NOT test preparation, it is simply a guide for you to determine if you already possess the knowledge to pass an exam, without further study.

Let's say you use practice exams and fail the test. What happens next? Do you take another practice exam? That probably won't work without further study. Statistics show very low first-time pass rates for the practice exam form of test preparation.

Mid-level test preparation

Mid-level based test preparation materials focus all your effort on knowing the test and answering the questions correctly – not learning the course material. If you use mid-level materials and pass, you get credit for the course.

Remember, however, mid-level study materials only prepare you for the test and don't give you actual knowledge of the course material. If you don't pass, you can do this all over again, but it probably won't work without further study.

In-depth study materials

Another option is to use in-depth study materials

that utilize focused course study materials and the requisite college textbook to prepare you for the exam.

This method of further study produces the highest number of "first timers" passing the test. The reason is simple: The materials prepare you with knowledge of the subject matter, not just the test.

You can use this method of study with courses you have no previous experience or knowledge of and still pass the test. This method provides the highest degree of course success and satisfaction.

A front runner in this form of test preparation is **iStudySmart.com**.

Established in 1986, iStudySmart.com has a 24-year history developing comprehensive, in-depth test preparation materials so students can earn college credit by examination.

With more than 80 courses that map to CLEP, DSST/DANTES and Excelsior College Exams (ECE), **iStudySmart.com** has the inventory most students need to test out of prerequisites.

The key to its success is use of the college textbooks along with the study materials.

The concept of "reading plus writing equals retention" is achieved through the **iStudySmart.com** method of study. Study materials are provided in three optional formats, online, CD-Rom, and printed workbook.

This allows complete flexibility to the student so they can study at their own pace.

For more information, call 800-737-2222 or get information online at <http://www.istudysmart.com>.

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Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny, commander, Naval Education and Training Command, presents DANTES Director Jeffrey Cropsey with his 40-year Career Service Certificate during a recent visit to Saufley Field.



New CNETC visits DANTES and NETPDTC

Last month, Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny, the new Commander of Naval Education and Training Command, visited his two Third-Echelon Shore Commands located at Saufley Field – DANTES and Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center.

While visiting DANTES, Adm. Kilkenny thanked and complimented the staff on all they do to provide educational opportunities to the armed forces.



October 2009

11-17 – GRE Subject*
16 – ECE Extended Response (essay)

November 2009

5, 10, 12 – ASE (CONUS and overseas)

December 2009

5 – LSAT (50 U.S. states, Canada, Caribbean, Europe and Africa)
6 – LSAT (Asia, Australia and New Zealand)

Notes:

– Overseas test sites send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test sites send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

– The ASE registration deadline is Sept. 23.

*Choose only one day to administer. Submit separate Prometric order forms for GRE Subject and Praxis.

**Saturday Sabbath observers

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/exams_calendar.pdf

DANTES Examinations Program

Price increasing for CLEP eCBT

For individuals paying for CLEP eCBT exams administered at Base-Sponsored and On-Campus National Test Centers (NTC) please note: Effective Oct. 1, the cost for the CLEP eCBT exam increased from \$70 to \$72. DANTES continues to fund eligible military and civilians.

This price increase does not affect CLEP paper-based test titles at DANTES Test Sites.

FY10 DEPH available Oct. 1

The FY10 DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH, Parts I and II), will be available online Oct. 1 to DANTES testing personnel with access to the Exams Management Information System (EMIS).

Users can view, search and download the FY10 DEPH, as well as the calendar of national test dates for FY10 and other functions such as the online Document Receipt Form and Annual Testing Facilities Review form.

The DEPH is no longer available on CD-ROM. For questions or comments concerning electronic DEPH publications, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at exams@navy.mil.

Exam resources available online

The online version of the DANTES Document Receipt Form (Form 1560/14) is available online only. The form is located in EMIS.

If you are a test control officer (TCO) or assistant and do not have a username and password to enter EMIS, go to the DANTES

homepage, place your pointer on “Academic Examination Program” on the left side menu, in the drop down menu, click on “Education Staff Information,” and then click on “Exams Management Information System (EMIS) for TCOs.”

Once there, click on “New Users Must Click Here” and follow the directions to obtain a username and password.

The DANTES Document Receipt Form is not the only feature behind EMIS.

Under “Your Applications,” you will find the following items: CLEP Sample Test Study Guide, DANTES Test Center Search, Web DATIP Admin, DEPH Online, GED Program Manual, ECE TCO Manual and Exam Programs Forms.

Additionally, there are online forms for test ordering, Annual Facilities Review, GRE and GMAT Reimbursement.

Excelsior College exams update

The following Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) are being retired:

- **Nursing Concepts Series: exams 461-467.**
- **Religions of the World: exam 509.**

Except as noted below, these exams will be retired effective Oct. 1, 2009. Only exams administered on or before Sept. 30, 2009, will be eligible for scoring. Return paper versions of these exams to Excelsior by Oct. 1.

The following active exams are available to replace the Nursing Concepts series and can be ordered through the established exam shipment process:

- **Essentials of Nursing Care (Health Safety, Health Differences, Chronicity and Reproductive Health): #488-491.**
- **Health Differences Across the Life Span 1, 2 and 3: #492-494.**
- **Transition to the Registered Professional Nurse Role: #495.**

Students who plan to seek nursing licensure in the State of Georgia AND enrolled in the Excelsior College Associate in Nursing degree program on or before Sept. 30, 2007, will remain eligible to test using the Nursing Concepts exams through Dec. 31, 2009, with prior approval from the Excelsior College School of Nursing.

Contact the Excelsior College DANTES Unit

at dfax@excelsior.edu if you need to order a Nursing Concepts exam to test an authorized candidate after Sept. 30, 2009, or if you need confirmation of their approval to test with the Nursing Concepts exams between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.

As a reminder, the Excelsior College promotion for free practice exams for members of the Active, Guard and Reserve components of the military continues through Dec. 31.

Practice exams are available to help candidates prepare for the nursing exams noted above, as well as many other ECE titles. For additional information about free access to Excelsior College Practice Exams, visit <http://www.excelsior.edu/practice>.

DANTES is still accepting requests to convert DANTES testing sites from paper-based to computer-based testing (CBT). Pearson VUE will provide the exam delivery platform for this testing at base-sponsored National Test Centers or approved DANTES test sites with DANTES appointed Test Control Officers.

Those who wish to convert to CBT are invited to contact Excelsior College at dfax@excelsior.edu to begin the conversion process.

DANTES Distance Learning Programs



Check out podcasts from the 2009 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium – a joint project between DANTES and Dallas County Community College District – at <http://military.dcccd.edu/ww09>.

Handheld study concludes

How effective are PDA and iPods for course delivery? DANTES and Hezel Associates, a research and evaluation firm, recently completed a research project to study the effectiveness of mobile devices in the delivery of courses.

Phase I of the Study on the Effectiveness of Handheld Devices in Course Delivery was completed in 2008 and consisted of a literature review and participation by five institutions.

Along with a lack of structured theories and rapid technology growth and adoption, program development was found to be largely reactive to external forces.

In Phase II of the project,

381 additional institutions were contacted, but no additional fully mobile implementations were found.

However, 50 percent of the institutions used mobile learning for support and have plans for continued use in the future.

More information is available at <http://www.hezel.com/mlearning>.



DANTES Independent Study Catalog

New schools affiliated with DANTES:

University of West Georgia Distance & Distributed Education, eCore Program

1601 Maple St.
Carrollton, GA 30118
678-839-5437
Toll free: 877-856-6654
Fax: 318-342-1049

URL: <http://ecore.usg.edu>

eCore, short for electronic core-curriculum, allows University System of Georgia (USG) students the opportunity to complete the first two years of their collegiate careers in an online environment. eCore courses are taught entirely online, except for the occasional proctored exam.

eCore offers courses in English, mathematics, science, history,

and the social sciences that are designed, developed, taught and supported by faculty and staff from the USG.

American Military University

111 West Congress St.
Charles Town, WV 25414
304-724-3600
Toll free: 877-777-9081
Fax: 304-724-3790

E-mail: registrar@apus.edu

URL: <http://www.apus.amu.edu>

Accreditation: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

California Miramar University

9750 Miramar Road
Suite 180
San Diego, CA 92126
858-653-3000

Toll free: 877-570-5678 3284

Fax: 858-653-6786

E-mail: admissions@calmu.edu

URL: <http://www.calmu.edu>

Accreditation: Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)

Name change:

The University System of Georgia Independent and Distance Learning (IDL) has changed its name to the University of Georgia Independent and Distance Learning (IDL) <http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/idl>.



DANTES Regional Workshop to be held in San Diego

DANTES will host a Regional Workshop in San Diego Jan 26-28, 2010.

DANTES periodically conducts workshops in various regions around the United States to provide information and updates about

DANTES programs.

The workshops target Education Service Officers (ESOs), counselors and others who represent the military voluntary education community, as well as representatives from colleges that provide degree

programs to Service members across the country and around the world.

The focus of the workshop is to promote a better understanding and utilization of the voluntary education programs managed by DANTES.

DANTES External Degree Catalog

New schools affiliated with DANTES:

University of Louisiana at Monroe – GOLD (Gateway to Online Degrees)
700 University Avenue
Recruitment & Admissions
Monroe, La., 71209
318-342-1000
Toll free: 877-856-6654
Fax: 318-342-1049
E-mail: onlinedegrees@ulm.edu
URL: <http://www.ulm.edu/onlinedegrees>
Accreditation: Southern Association

of Colleges and Schools

American Military University
111 West Congress Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
304-724-3600
Toll free: 877-777-9081
Fax: 304-724-3790
E-mail: registrar@apus.edu
URL: <http://www.apus.amu.edu>
Accreditation: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

Want the DIB sent directly to your e-mail?

If you would like to have the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) sent monthly to your e-mail, click on the icon or send an e-mail to pubs@navy.mil.



DANTES

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The *DANTES Information Bulletin* is published online monthly to inform education personnel about DANTES programs.

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The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing policy committee.

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Reserve Advisor	3127	1159	rca@navy.mil
Web site		1322	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6202-80-6008		dantes@eur.army.mil
Pacific Advisor	808-449-8862		dantes.pacific@hickam.af.mil
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Tuition Assistance	3130	1161	tahelp@navy.mil
Credentialing/Certification	3194	1005	certprog@navy.mil
Distribution Center	452-1082	1140	dist@navy.mil